

Groton August 27th 1837

Monday morning.

Dear Caroline,

I designed writing to you several days since, but have written from day to day just to see the end of one play and then of another. Sarah & Angelina arrived on Wed night and we had a most interesting time talking over matters & things, reading letters from the brethren &c. but I will not enlarge, for I wrote all this to Jessie, & as Deborah will be with you by the time you get this, she can tell you every thing I wrote! Thursday, I wrote a letter for Angelina & finished off a petition for Jessie, and had much pleasant conversation with both. I felt somewhat pleased when the hour for meeting arrived for the "strife of tongues" in Groton had been past, and the hearts of so many seemed failing them for fear, that I longed to have the matter over. The day before the Grimke's came, I went up to see Mr. Bagg, for the purpose of strengthening her. To this end, I proclaimed away all St Paul's verses that are "hard to be understood," and charged Mrs. B now to hold on to her ground. I told her there were the "perilous times" and now she must stand to her adams. She behaved very boldly, and, indeed, I think very well of her courage, for probably no one in the female society dared to take the ground of defending women's preaching, save herself. This George Custer was too shocked to go. Mr. Sheepf (the Groton minister) declined being in the pulpit with them or opening the meeting. But as Stanton arrived in the course of Thursday he agreed to open the meeting. Accordingly off we all started on Thursday evening, and the church. The Grimke's, Miss Grey, Henry Stanton & I driven by Dr. Livermore, the Dr's man; the Dr & Mary followed in the chaise. The house was thronged, fuller than it ever had been at any abolition meeting known before. They and Stanton walked silently into the pulpit and after a few minutes, Stanton mumbled one of the most eloquent & to the purpose prayers that I ever heard. Angelina spoke on the topic, that the South never has been ready for Emancipation; that circumstances have never been leading that way at all, and that consequently the abolitionists

couest not have put back what was never given and she spoke
very well indeed tho' I have heard her when I have been
more struck. Sarah, having a very bad cold, did not speak
Friday morning Miss Capell, Mrs Rugg, Mrs Dix and a young
man from Dartmouth College called. I received Dr's letter while
in the midst of this goodly company, but had to wait in a perfect sh
tren our till they were gone; I had a feeling as to what was in it. "For
Never was I gladder to hear news of that sort. I was so relieved
to learn that there was only one. I was busy part of Friday morning and
writing notes of invitation as the Dr was determined to do all
his duty and give a party. When he gave me his list, I observed that m
he had asked mainly the people that visited at the house gen
erally and many good Abolitionists were left out. I remonstra- m
ted against this and the Dr readily agreed to making the
party genuinely democratic. Accordingly, together with the
Fullers, Fotheringhams, Dix's, Robinsons, Bancrofts &c were asked
those who had hitherto appeared of less note, and in the whole, this
produced a party of 30 or 40. Miss Grey fell to work & made
custard & blancmange and the evening came, & so did the
folks. Almost all came that were asked, so that half the
room was composed of our right opposers. The Greenh's behaved out
very well, talked pleasantly & freely with individuals & Cenger- no
lina harangued circles of brethren which induced some of the m
women present to look on with gazing eyes. Stanton
was very like himself, that is, refused to be introduced to any
body, or to contribute at all to any body's amusement.
The Dr thought that some of the aristocracy felt badly, not at
being brought into collision with Abolitionists, but with
Merriam, &c. I told him Dr was equal to me, if they all so
fell into apoplexies. Saturday afternoon Stanton left us, having
I believe picked \$100 from the Dr. Money, money, being the a
whole burden of his song. Saturday forenoon who should come
up to the door but Mary Ann and her father. Her face was somewhat the
flushed & had that indescribably worried look that features exhibit
when some thing is on the mind; her father was very counten vised,
but I remember that it woud not answer to either the words
triumph or abolition. The Dr was gone to

and Stanton with him to ride, & the Grunkes were up staining.
Mary came into the room and as my suspense soon became intolerable, I asked Mary Ann to go out with me. As soon as we were alone she burst forth; it appears, that the day before, at Dr Cutters on her declining slave labour, some how or other, the mine exploded & first she had a poor time "Don't ask me to tell you any more" said she
"for if I talk I shall get to crying; I can't go to hear the Grunkes and father has forbid my coming over to Groton to stay at all and he is just going to let me go back to you after vacation."
I quieted & com for her all I could, gave her free labour blan-
ket smudge & cake, and told her the storm would blow over. Pepperell
I suppose was the worst place she could possibly be in, for the
meeting house had been refused to the Grunkes, and therefore
notice had been given that they would speak in a barn. With
things in this state, of course there was not a soul in Pepperell
whose feelings were not outraged to the utmost, & who more
than the minister's right hand man Dr Cuttler? I could not keep
M.C. out long. After I returned, Angelina chanced to come in to the
room. I introduced M.C. as a stranger to Miss G & they met as
such. M.C. en port politely bowed, and she went immediately
out. Mr D. in answer to our invitation to M.C. to come to Gro-
ton said she would like to much, but that probably, her engage-
ments would not permit. As she was going out however she
whispered her thankfulness that he was going to Boston on
Monday & after that she hoped just to ride over some morning.
Tell him, I shall ride over there, and "He can't call Engage-
ment into account" At least, I shall like to see him try.
He had better attend to his family affairs in the West Indies.
To tell you the truth, I could not bear him tho' his man-
ner was polite in the extreme, but I suppose, I saw him in
a prejudiced state of mind. In the afternoon, the Grunkes & I proceeded
to Pepperell. He did not go, for he wished them going to appear to be
the work of the abolitionists there. Mr Hartwell, a Pepperell man
came & took Sarah, George & I in a carriage. The barn in which
the meeting was held was a large one & primitive & pretty it
looked. There was nothing in it, no box or anything of that kind.

benevolies were placed on the mows, and in the barn floor leaving
only a little lane or one aisle whereby we proceeded to the platform
which was raised up; - say, just where our back barn door at
Waymouth is; chairs were there placed on which sat Sarah Angelina
Mrs Hartwell, Mrs King & I. a carpet was under our feet, a nice
little table with a white cloth on it before us, & the platform adorned
with branches & leaves. About 200 people were present, notwithstanding
standing the great efforts used to keep people away. Sarah opened
the meeting with an excellent prayer, & Angelina then spoke
with great eloquence. Her address was better suited to the purpose of
people than the one in Groton. Sarah followed & spoke as well as
Angelina. We reached home before dark, meeting with no difficulty.

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Grotonville
Augt.

Miss Caroline Weston
Care of Mr Sylvanus Sampson
Duxbury
Massachusetts

Saturday

Mr. S. A. 9.2
I am very anxious about my money matter
for I have been advised by one our neighbors
position if you do you or I choose must offer
to it. Love to see the inhabitants especially to
Elizabeth. This is as much to do as you or I can do
for nothing. I shall probably not write to you at
Sibbury again even during winter.

This afternoon we go to Harvard on Wednesday to Westford and on
Thursday next to Towns end. They feel able to speak only every other
day. They will be here till a week from to day, a they may stay till
Wednesday week in order to attend the County meeting. I shall probably
return to Boston at the time that they do. I could not well before, for putting
it out of the question that I am enjoying all this very highly, I
feel as though I were of some use here and I ought to stay while they
are here. One thing I beg of you to remember. I want you to send me
a dollar by mail. I have not enough to pay my passage home by less
a dollar. I have paid for several society letters and the stage fare has
been raised to a dollar.